

Modernization Act. It is a simple correction that extends to the permanent drug benefit the same protection for Federal assistance program eligibility provided in the transitional drug benefit. I encourage Members to support this bill.

Congress and the Bush Administration have repeatedly affirmed that low-income seniors should not have to choose between food and prescription drugs. Our actions as a body have not lived up to that commitment. Congress should act quickly to fix this flaw in the Medicare Modernization Act so that the most vulnerable among us are not faced with an impossible choice.

CONGRATULATING ARACELI
LOZANO, SMALL BUSINESS AD-
VOCATE WOMEN CHAMPION OF
THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Araceli Lozano, Small Business Advocate Women Champion of the Year.

Araceli is the Director of the Laredo Development Foundation Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which was established to provide vision and leadership to develop, encourage, promote and protect the business interests of the Laredo metropolitan area.

As Director, Araceli works to provide opportunities, motivation, and guidance to current and potential small business owners. Under the stewardship of Ms. Lozano, the SBDC team has achieved an outstanding track record, meeting and exceeding each counseling and training goal. Araceli has consistently reached out to small business owners in rural communities, providing direction to enhance the business skills of these blossoming entrepreneurs.

I am honored to recognize Araceli Lozano as the Small Business Advocate Women Champion of the Year. Araceli's dedication and devotion to the growth and success of small businesses is truly admirable.

CONGRATULATING ALICIA
ESPINOZA, SMALL BUSINESS AD-
VOCATE FINANCIAL CHAMPION
OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Alicia Espinoza, Small Business Advocate Financial Champion of the Year.

Alicia works as a Commercial Loan Officer for the Commerce Bank where she makes and services all types of loans. With over 9 years banking experience, Ms. Espinoza offers clients a wealth of banking knowledge and financial understanding.

Alicia strives to provide personalized attention to her customers. She knows them all by their names, not their account numbers. By offering each customer individualized consideration and tailored advice, she is able to maxi-

mize the success of her business transactions. Alicia works hard to serve the needs of her clients, often working beyond a banker's traditional hours.

I am honored to recognize Alicia Espinoza as the Small Business Advocate Financial Champion of the Year. Alicia's exceptional efforts continue to perpetuate the economic and social development of her community.

THE COMMENCEMENT MESSAGE OF DR. DAVID JEFFERSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the success and contributions of Dr. David Jefferson, Sr. A graduate of Grambling State University, David has been a role model and example for a generation of Grambling students and others who have met him.

In the last thirty years, David has risen up the ranks in the business community and has developed an impressive reputation amongst his colleagues as a fair and wise business leader. He currently serves as the President and CEO of JNET Communications, LLC and is a member of the board of directors of SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance Company, Inc. He has succeeded in bringing the talents of a young Louisianan and the lessons of a noteworthy academic institution into the decision-making of two major corporations.

Beginning in 2003, JNET has provided a suite of technology and technology-related services to telephone companies, cable television systems, and other businesses. The company has created a number of job opportunities in minority and low-income communities. Through its Up the Ladder training program, it has trained individuals in these communities to work as call center experts, customer acquisition and expansion experts, and maintenance and installation experts. David has been successful in managing an organization that creates jobs for the community and the people that surround him.

Dr. Jefferson is also a senior pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Newark. Founded in 1938, Metropolitan Baptist has one of the largest congregations in Newark. It has over 80 ministries ranging from choirs and church services to ecommerce and educational development. David has effectively used the church to address the economic and social needs of his congregation and has worked to improve the livelihood of his community.

David is also a willing community activist. He divides his time with a number of social and religious organizations dedicated to making an impact on the community. He is enthusiastically involved in the actions of civil rights organizations, legal associations, and a fraternal order. In addition, David is the director and co-chair of 1,000 Churches Connected Initiative. His commitment to the community and involvement in its development is a testament to the importance of daily activism and individual responsibility.

Dr. Jefferson is a wonderful role model for generations of Americans. He effectively combines the intuitiveness and aggressiveness of the business community with the compassion

and care of the neighborhood. He is a dedicated leader to the economic and social fabric of this country and should be recognized for his role in shaping and developing the individual, the family, and the community.

Dr. Jefferson bestowed his sage advice on the graduating class of Grambling State University Sunday, May 22. He advised the graduates of his keys to success and reminded them of the importance of community service, determination, and commitment to their life. I would like to share with this body the thoughtful words of Dr. David Jefferson at the commencement of Grambling State University. I submit for the RECORD the prepared text of that commencement address.

“ACHIEVING YOUR DREAMS AND HOPES”;
GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY COMMENCE-
MENT ADDRESS, MAY 22, 2005

To Dr. Judson, the president of this internationally renowned, remarkable, historical institution; Chairman of the Board of Trustees; faculty; administrators; staff; parents; friends; loved ones; and last but certainly not least the Graduating Class of 2005. When you travel and see the condition of our young people . . . to see those who have reached this level, they deserve a message from us that we are proud of their accomplishments.

Today represents a major milestone and one of significant meaning and enormous joy and fulfillment for all of us. For the graduates and their families, because your hard work, sacrifice and perseverance has finally yielded the first installment of your dividends. It's significant for this great institution because there is a spirit of revival and rebirth in the air at GSU.

I am excited and encouraged about what is happening at my Alma Mater. The campus is receiving a long overdue facelift, buildings are being constructed, dorms are being renovated, academic curriculums are being re-evaluated, and there is a vision and hope for tomorrow.

For me it's significant because I have been invited back to my roots, the place where I started my journey and received my foundation for higher academic training. This is the institution that equipped me and prepared me for my MBA work in finance at the University of Dayton. It is this institution that also equipped me to pursue legal studies at Capital Law School; a Master's of Theology at Drew University; and another master's degree from one of the top schools in the world—the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It is this institution that paved the way for me to become the Pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark, N.J. which has nearly 6,000 members, and now the President and CEO of JNET Communications. After 34 years I have been invited back to give this commencement address and that's a marvelous blessing. So do not let anyone tell you Grambling is not a great school. Without this school I wouldn't be where I am today.

I am very humbled and emotional, but very excited. And I want to thank Dr. Judson for inviting me to address this class. I've received a number of prestigious honors in my life, many of which were absolutely outstanding. However, in my estimation, this tops them all. To stand here today is extremely significant to me. Everywhere I go young people constantly inquire, “Dr. Jefferson, how have you achieved such significant accomplishments and what advice would you give college students?” And that's what I want to focus on briefly: achieving your dreams and hopes.

The first thing I have to admit is it has not been easy—you really do have to learn how

to lean and depend on God. But you also have to have a dream, some hope, some aspiration that takes you beyond the present to what you want for your future. It's called reaching beyond the present. I had and still have a desire to achieve.

Even if you don't know exactly "where" you want to go, you need to possess a desire to "excel beyond your present." Then you need to be inspired because aspiration is not enough, you also need inspiration. I grew up in Doyline, a small rural area just west of here—dirt roads, no running water, outside bathrooms, and bathing in a #3 tub (something many of you perhaps know nothing about). There are 15 children in our family. I'm #10 and nine of us graduated from college. My father, a Baptist minister, was a strong man and an outstanding role model. My mother, who is with me today, is 89 years old and will be 90 in December. Neither of my parents finished high school, but they understood the value of a good education and inspired their children to be somebody, to make something of themselves, to be their best. Without aspiration and without inspiration there is no drive, determination, or will to succeed. Success comes to those who are willing to sweat. And then you need to work at it. It's called preparation. And preparation involves perspiration. Preparation and perspiration always precede realization. Dreams and aspirations can never be achieved without preparation and perspiration. And then you get to the moment of celebration. That's where you are today. So graduates—it is time to celebrate!

But today's accomplishments are to be celebrated with commas, not periods. As a punctuation mark, the period says "stop." It represents the end of a declarative statement. But a comma says simply, "pause," because there's more to follow. I urge you to celebrate today with a comma, meaning that there's more to follow! Seize the moment, but keep going. Make the most of your life. Don't stop. Go for your master's, go for your doctorate, take your life to the next level. Do something that will make a difference, make your mark in life, leave a legacy.

L. Frank Baum in his 1939 epic, "The Wizard of Oz," starts the story when a nasty neighbor tries to have Dorothy's dog put to sleep. Dorothy takes her dog, Toto, to run away. A cyclone appears and carries her to the magical land of Oz. Wishing to return, she begins to travel to the city of Oz, where a great and powerful wizard lives. On her way she meets a Scarecrow who needs a brain, a Tin Man who wants a heart, and a cowardly Lion who desperately needs courage. They all hope the Wizard of Oz will help them, before the Wicked Witch of the West catches up to them. But when they reach Oz and meet the magnificent Wizard they encounter a remarkable discovery. And that is

"what they were looking for on the outside was only to be found within." What they wanted the Wizard to give them, they had all along. You have within you brains, the courage and the heart and the spirit to go the distance. Cultivate what you have within! Sometimes up, sometimes down, it won't be easy but go for it!

And perhaps that's what Langston Hughes had in mind when he wrote the poem "Mother to Son," where the mother says to her son

...
 "Well, son, I'll tell you:
 Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
 It's had tacks in it,
 And splinters,
 And boards torn up,
 And places with no carpet on the floor—
 Bare.
 But all the time
 I've been a-climbin' on,
 And reachin' landin's,
 And turnin' corners,
 And sometimes goin' in the dark
 Where there ain't been no light.
 So, boy, don't you turn back.
 Don't you set down on the steps.
 'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
 Don't you fall now—
 For I'se still goin', honey
 I'se still climbin',
 And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

So go for it graduates and one day you'll discover, like I have, there is no place like home, no place like Doyline, no place like Grambling State University! And although today is a great accomplishment, your best is yet to come.

God bless you and God bless Grambling State University!

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF DE TEEL PATTERSON (PAT) TILLER

HON. JIM MCCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an individual who has for the past 28 years been a thoughtful and articulate advocate of historic preservation and cultural resources programs serving the 388 national parks and the Nation's heritage partnership programs.

de Teel Patterson (Pat) Tiller, the National Park Service's Deputy Associate Director, Cultural Resources, will retire in June. Since 1999 he has served as both the Deputy and Acting Associate Director of the National Park Serv-

ice. A native of Washington, DC, Tiller worked as a professional designer in television and regional theater before receiving a Master's degree in Architectural History with a specialty in historic preservation from the University of Virginia, College of Architecture. He was in private practice in West Texas before joining the National Park Service in 1977. Tiller has served in various adjunct faculty positions in architectural history and historic preservation policy and practice at the University of Wyoming, the University of Virginia, Kansas State University, George Washington University in Washington, DC, and Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland. He received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Goucher in 2003.

In the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana, Pat Tiller has been instrumental in nurturing and developing a unique relationship among three National Park Service entities in Natchitoches. The synergy of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park, the Cane River National Heritage Area, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training and local partners is a model for cooperation and productivity among federal agencies and local communities. The American Planning Association recognized this achievement with a Federal Planning Award for Partnerships in 2004.

The community has benefited from Tiller's guidance in two Save America's Treasures awards, numerous visits by National Park Service personnel, and the development of the Creole Heritage Center on the campus of Northwestern State University. The Creole Heritage Center has seen its mission and scope extend beyond a local community group to a national constituency. Pat Tiller has been instrumental in formulating the policies and funding to make this a reality.

Pat Tiller has been a man of vision of during his tenure at the National Park Service in improving the nation's natural and historic resources. He leaves behind a rich legacy, numerous contributions and very large shoes to fill. My staff and I, and I dare say many other members and staff on the Hill, will miss Pat's guidance, hard work, unfailing courtesy, good humor and most of all dedication to his work in the years ahead. But I know that I and many others in the Fourth District will seek opportunities to keep Pat engaged and part of the larger preservation community as he re-enters the private sector and begins another phase of an already distinguished career.